

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 PM-07 INR-10 SS-20 RSC-01 ISO-00 MMS-03 SPC-03

PER-05 /068 R

DRAFTED BY AF/RA:AJNAVEZ, AF/W:HWALKER

APPROVED BY AF:AMBASSADOR EASUM

AF/W:JLOUGHRAN

PM/ISO:LTC FLEMINGS

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P 132315Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050793

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, LI

SUBJECT: STRENGTH ADJUSTMENTS IN MILITARY MISSION

REF: MONROVIA 1399

FROM EASUM FOR AMBASSADOR

1. USEFUL BACKGROUND TO GENERAL ISSUE PROVIDED IN
WALKER/NALLE LETTER DATED FEB. 25.

2. DEPT HAS NOT SEEN ANY OF OSD OR USCINCEUR COMMUNICA-
TIONS ON PROPOSED LIBMISH CUTBACKS. WE AGREE THAT THERE
IS REAL QUESTION OF POLICY AND PRINCIPLE INVOLVED IF
THESE MESSAGES ISSUED ANY DIRECTIVE TO EMBASSY. DEPT
NOT YET OFFICIALLY OR UNOFFICIALLY APPROACHED BY DOD
FOR INPUT ON PROPOSED LIBMISH REDUCTION, BUT WE HAVE
ADVISED OASD/ISA (AFRICA REGION) OF OUR VIEW THAT THIS
IS SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL MATTER AND THAT WE WISH TO MAKE
INPUT ON FINAL DECISION.OUR POSITION RE CUT, IF ANY,
WOULD REFLECT YOUR VIEWS. ISSUE APPEARS TO BE WORLDWIDE
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AND NOT DIRECTED ONLY AT LIBERIA OR AFRICA.

3. AS TO SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED LIBMISH CUTS, OUR PRE-LIMINARY VIEW IS THAT SUDDEN CUT TO SEVEN POSITIONS IN FY 75 IS TOO DRASTIC A CHANGE AND MIGHT WELL BE MIS-INTERPRETED BY GOL. DESIRABLE LOWERING OF US PROFILE

OVER LONGER TERM WHICH WOULD STRETCH OUT LIBMISH CUTBACKS UNTIL FY 79 AS EMBASSY APPARENTLY PREFERS SEEMS PREFERABLE FROM HERE.

4. WE WILL PREPARE REPLY TO YOUR 1382 WHICH DURING CLEARANCE PROCESS WILL SMOKE OUT DOD PLANS. KISSINGER

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